

What is claimed is:

1. A sole structure for an article of footwear comprising, in combination:
a sole; and
at least one cleat assembly pivotally connected to the sole such that a medial portion and a lateral portion of the cleat assembly can move upwardly and downwardly with respect to the sole.
2. The sole structure of claim 1, wherein each cleat assembly pivots about an axis that extends generally from a heel portion to a toe portion of the sole.
3. The sole structure of claim 1, wherein each cleat assembly comprises a base member and at least two cleats extending from a lower surface of the base member.
4. The sole structure of claim 3, wherein each cleat assembly comprises a first cleat in a lateral portion of the base member and a second cleat in a medial portion of the base member.
5. The sole structure of claim 1, wherein each cleat assembly includes a first projection extending from a front surface of the cleat assembly and a second projection extending from a rear surface of the cleat assembly, the first and second projections received in first and second recesses, respectively, formed in the sole.
6. The sole structure of claim 1, wherein each cleat assembly includes a pin having a first end extending outwardly from a front surface of the cleat assembly and a second end extending outwardly from a rear surface of the cleat assembly, the first and second ends of the pin being received in first and second recesses, respectively, formed in the sole.

7. The sole structure of claim 6, wherein the pin extends through an aperture formed in the cleat assembly.
8. The sole structure of claim 1, further comprising at least one recess formed in a lower surface of the sole, each recess configured to receive a portion of a cleat assembly as it pivots with respect to the sole.
9. The sole structure of claim 8, wherein each recess comprises a first portion configured to receive a medial portion of a cleat assembly and a second portion configured to receive a lateral portion of a cleat assembly as the cleat assembly pivots with respect to the sole.
10. The sole structure of claim 8, further comprising at least one skirt, each skirt secured about a first edge thereof to a cleat assembly and about a second edge thereof to a corresponding recess.
11. The sole structure of claim 10, wherein each skirt is formed of a flexible material.
12. The sole structure of claim 1, wherein a cleat assembly is secured to a rear area of a heel portion of the sole.
13. The sole structure of claim 1, wherein a cleat assembly is secured to a forward area of a heel portion of the sole.

14. The sole structure of claim 1, wherein a cleat assembly is secured to a rear area of a forefoot portion of the sole.

15. The sole structure of claim 1, wherein a cleat assembly is secured to a forward area of a forefoot portion of the sole.

16. The sole structure of claim 1, wherein a first cleat assembly is secured to a rear area of a heel portion of the sole, a second cleat assembly is secured to a front area of the heel portion of the sole, a third cleat assembly is secured to a rear area of a forefoot portion of the sole, and a fourth cleat assembly is secured to a front area of the forefoot portion of the sole.

17. A sole structure for an article of footwear comprising, in combination:

a sole;

at least one recess formed in the sole; and

at least one cleat assembly mounted to the sole for pivotal movement with respect to the sole, a portion of each cleat assembly being received in a corresponding recess when the cleat assembly pivots, each cleat assembly comprising

a base member pivotally secured to the sole;

a first cleat secured to a lateral area of the base member; and

a second cleat secured to a medial area of the base member.

18. The sole structure of claim 17, further comprising at least one skirt, each skirt secured about a first edge thereof to a cleat assembly and about a second edge thereof to a corresponding recess.

19. The sole structure of claim 18, wherein each skirt is formed of a flexible material.
20. The sole structure of claim 17, wherein a cleat assembly is secured to a rear area of a heel portion of the sole.
21. The sole structure of claim 17, wherein a cleat assembly is secured to a forward area of a heel portion of the sole.
22. The sole structure of claim 17, wherein a cleat assembly is secured to a rear area of a forefoot portion of the sole.
23. The sole structure of claim 17, wherein a cleat assembly is secured to a forward area of a forefoot portion of the sole.
24. The sole structure of claim 17, wherein a first cleat assembly is secured to a rear area of a heel portion of the sole, a second cleat assembly is secured to a front area of the heel portion of the sole, a third cleat assembly is secured to a rear area of a forefoot portion of the sole, and a fourth cleat assembly is secured to a front area of the forefoot portion of the sole.
25. An article of footwear comprising, in combination:
 - an upper;
 - a sole secured to the upper;
 - at least one cleat assembly pivotally connected to the sole such that a medial end and a lateral end of the cleat assembly move upwardly and downwardly with respect to the sole.

26. The sole structure of claim 25, wherein each cleat assembly pivots about an axis that extends generally from a heel portion to a toe portion of the sole.

27. The sole structure of claim 25, wherein each cleat assembly comprises a base member and at least two cleats extending from a lower surface of the base member.

28. The sole structure of claim 27, wherein each cleat assembly comprises a first cleat in a lateral portion of the base member and a second cleat in a medial portion of the base member.

29. The sole structure of claim 25, wherein each cleat assembly includes a first projection extending from a front surface of the cleat assembly and a second projection extending from a rear surface of the cleat assembly, the first and second projections received in first and second recesses, respectively, formed in the sole.

30. The sole structure of claim 25, wherein each cleat assembly includes a pin having a first end extending outwardly from a front surface of the cleat assembly and a second end extending outwardly from a rear surface of the cleat assembly, the first and second ends of the pin being received in first and second recesses, respectively, formed in the sole.

31. The sole structure of claim 30, wherein the pin extends through an aperture formed in the cleat assembly.

32. The sole structure of claim 25, further comprising at least one recess formed in a lower surface of the sole, each recess configured to receive a portion of a cleat assembly as it pivots with respect to the sole.

33. The sole structure of claim 32, wherein each recess comprises a first portion configured to receive a medial portion of a cleat assembly and a second portion configured to receive a lateral portion of a cleat assembly as the cleat assembly pivots with respect to the sole.

34. The sole structure of claim 32, further comprising at least one skirt, each skirt secured about a first edge thereof to a cleat assembly and about a second edge thereof to a corresponding recess.

35. The sole structure of claim 34, wherein each skirt is formed of a flexible material.

36. The sole structure of claim 25, wherein a cleat assembly is secured to a rear area of a heel portion of the sole.

37. The sole structure of claim 25, wherein a cleat assembly is secured to a forward area of a heel portion of the sole.

38. The sole structure of claim 25, wherein a cleat assembly is secured to a rear area of a forefoot portion of the sole.

39. The sole structure of claim 25, wherein a cleat assembly is secured to a forward area of a forefoot portion of the sole.

40. The sole structure of claim 25, wherein a first cleat assembly is secured to a rear area of a heel portion of the sole, a second cleat assembly is secured to a front area of the heel portion of the sole, a third cleat assembly is secured to a rear area of a forefoot portion of the sole, and a fourth cleat assembly is secured to a front area of the forefoot portion of the sole.

41. An article of footwear comprising, in combination:

- an upper;
- a sole secured to the upper;
- at least one recess formed in the sole; and
- at least one cleat assembly mounted to the sole for pivotal movement with respect to the sole,

a portion of each cleat assembly received in a corresponding recess when the cleat assembly pivots, each cleat assembly comprising

- a base member pivotally secured to the sole;
- a first cleat secured to a lateral area of the base member; and
- a second cleat secured to a medial area of the base member.

42. The sole structure of claim 41, further comprising at least one skirt, each skirt secured about a first edge thereof to a cleat assembly and about a second edge thereof to a corresponding recess.

43. The sole structure of claim 42, wherein each skirt is formed of a flexible material.

44. The sole structure of claim 41, wherein a cleat assembly is secured to a rear area of a heel portion of the sole.

45. The sole structure of claim 41, wherein a cleat assembly is secured to a forward area of a heel portion of the sole.

46. The sole structure of claim 41, wherein a cleat assembly is secured to a rear area of a forefoot portion of the sole.

47. The sole structure of claim 41, wherein a cleat assembly is secured to a forward area of a forefoot portion of the sole.

48. The sole structure of claim 41, wherein a first cleat assembly is secured to a rear area of a heel portion of the sole, a second cleat assembly is secured to a front area of the heel portion of the sole, a third cleat assembly is secured to a rear area of a forefoot portion of the sole, and a fourth cleat assembly is secured to a front area of the forefoot portion of the sole.